

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A device that is connected with a network, said device comprising:

- a timer that measures elapsed time;
- a network communication module that communicates with another apparatus connecting with the network to provide a specified service;
- a time acquisition module that acquires an absolute time point from said another apparatus in the process of communication; and
- a base time setting module that sets the absolute time point as a base time point for specifying ~~a time at~~ each time point, ~~the time at~~ each time point being specified based on the elapsed time measured by said timer and the base time point.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A device in accordance with claim 1, said device further comprising:

- a log recording module that records a log, which represents a working status of said device and is mapped to elapsed time measured by said timer and the base time point,
- wherein said network communication module transmits the log to a predetermined server via the network, and
- said time acquisition module acquires the absolute time point from said predetermined server in the course of transmission.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A device in accordance with claim 2, wherein said log recording module corrects the elapsed time by taking into account a time interval specified from absolute ~~times~~ time points acquired more than once and a measurement result of said timer corresponding to the specified time interval, and records the log.

Claim 4 (Original): A device in accordance with claim 2, wherein a time interval of transmitting the log is longer than a time interval of recording the log.

Claim 5 (Original): A device in accordance with claim 2, wherein said network communication module transmits the log with an address dynamically allocated to said device via the network.

Claim 6 (Original): A device in accordance with claim 2, said device further comprising:
a working status detection module that outputs a continuously varying working status of said device as a discretely varying parameter value,
wherein said log recording module records the log at a specific time interval shorter than a minimum time interval that causes the discrete variation.

Claims 7 and 8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A device in accordance with claim 1, wherein a management server manages a working status of said device, said management server comprising:
a log holder module that holds a quantitative parameter value relating to the working status of said device as a log in a time series; and
a variation output module that, in response to a reset of the parameter value by an operation of said device, adds a parameter value after the reset to a parameter value immediately before the reset and outputs a time-based variation in working status of said device over the reset, based on a result of the addition.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A device in accordance with claim 1, said device outputting either of a sound and an image,
wherein said timer measures a time period since a power ON time of said device,
said network communication module receives an output file, which is to be output from said device, and
said time acquisition module receives the absolute time point, which is attached to the output file received by said network communication module.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A device in accordance with claim 10, wherein said time acquisition module receives a latest update time of the output file, which is received by said network communication module, as the absolute time point.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A device in accordance with claim 11, wherein the latest update time represents an absolute time point when a client has created the output file.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A device in accordance with claim 11, wherein the output file is transmitted to said device via a predetermined file server, and

the latest update time represents an absolute time point when said predetermined file server has received the output file.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A device in accordance with claim 10, wherein the absolute time point is included in the output file.

Claim 15 (Original): A device in accordance with claim 1, said device not being equipped with a built-in real time clock, which works even in a power OFF state of said device.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A device in accordance with claim 1, said device further comprising:

a time specification module that adds the measurement result of said elapsed time to the base time point and thereby specifies ~~a time at~~ each time point,

wherein said base time setting module resets said timer to zero and updates the base time point, in response to acquisition of the absolute time point.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said timer is activated at a power ON time of said device and counts a time period since the power ON time as a relative time,

said network communication modules transmits data collected by said device as a report file to a reporting address server, and

said time acquisition module receives the absolute time point from said reporting address server, while said network communication module transmits the report file to said reporting address server.

Claim 18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A printing system comprising a client that creates a print file and a printer that connects with said client,

said client comprising:

a print file generation module that creates the print file as a print job;

an absolute time information generation module that generates information on an absolute time point at a time point when the print file is created; and

a transmission module that transmits the created print file and the generated information on the absolute time point to said printer,

said printer comprising:

a timer that is activated at a power ON time of said printer and counts a time period since the power ON time as a relative time;

a network communication module that receives the print file transmitted from said client;

a time acquisition module that receives the information on the absolute time point, which is transmitted along with the print file; and

a time specification module that specifies ~~a time at~~ each time point, based on the absolute time point received by said time acquisition module and elapsed time from a reception of the print file, the elapsed time being calculated using the relative time.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A device control method that controls a device connecting with a network, said device control method comprising the steps of:

activating a timer included in said device to measure elapsed time;

communicating with another apparatus connecting with the network to provide a specified service;

acquiring an absolute time point from said another apparatus in the process of communication; and

setting the absolute time point as a base time point for specifying ~~a time at~~ each time point, ~~the time at~~ each time point being specified based on the elapsed time measured by said timer and the base time point.

Claim 21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): A device control method in accordance with claim 20, wherein the device control method further includes a management method that causes a management server to manage a working status of said device, said management method comprising the steps of:

holding a quantitative parameter value relating to the working status of said device as a log in a time series; and

in response to a reset of the parameter value by an operation of said device, adding a parameter value after the reset to a parameter value immediately before the reset and outputting a time-based variation in working status of said device over the reset, based on a result of the addition.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium in which a computer program for controlling a device connecting with a network is stored, said computer program comprising:

a first program code that activates a timer included in said device to measure elapsed time;

a second program code that communicates with another apparatus connecting with the network to provide a specified service;

a third program code that acquires an absolute time point from said another apparatus in the process of communication; and

a fourth program code that sets the absolute time point as a base time point for specifying ~~a time at~~ each time point, ~~the time at~~ each time point being specified based on the elapsed time measured by said timer and the base time point.

Claim 24 (Canceled).

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): A computer-readable storage medium in accordance with claim 23, wherein said computer program includes additional program code for causing a management server to manage a working status of said device, said additional program code comprising:

 a fifth program code that holds a quantitative parameter value relating to the working status of said device as a log in a time series; and

 a sixth program code that, in response to a reset of the parameter value by an operation of said device, adds a parameter value after the reset to a parameter value immediately before the reset and outputs a time-based variation in working status of said device over the reset, based on a result of the addition.